

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A slit valve for a medical implant for accepting an inflation tube, the valve comprising:

a unitary valve body having a proximal end and a distal end;

a flange at the proximal end of the valve body and having a flange surface having an opening therein;

~~a valve body having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end connected to said flange surface;~~

a first chamber defined in said valve body and in open fluid communication with the flange opening, the first chamber being capable of ~~formed in said valve body for~~ accepting an inflation tube when inserted through said flange opening in said flange surface;

a second chamber having a concave section, the second chamber located between said adjacent said first chamber and said distal end of the valve body; and

a normally closed slit formed in the valve body and connecting said the concave section and said the distal end of the valve body;

wherein the valve body is structured to receive an inflation tube through the flange opening whereby fluid introduced from the inflation tube into the second chamber causes the slit to open and pass distally through the distal end of the valve body.

2. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 1, wherein, upon insertion of an inflation tube, said flange surface opening

accepts a tip portion of the inflation tube and secures the tip in said valve.

3. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 2, wherein said tip portion has a reduced diameter part and, upon passage of the tip portion of the inflation tube through said flange ~~surface~~ opening, said opening engages ~~[[a]]~~ the reduced diameter part of the tip portion of the inflation tube thereby securing the tip portion ~~to secure the tip~~ in said valve.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 1 further comprising a neck portion between the first chamber and the second chamber, wherein upon insertion of an inflation tube, a tip portion of the inflation tube engages said neck portion.

6. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 5, wherein the neck portion is such that, upon said insertion of the inflation tube, at least a portion of said neck portion substantially conforms to the shape of the tip portion of the inflation tube.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The valve of claim 1, wherein said distal end further comprises a concave section.

9. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 8, wherein upon application of fluid pressure to the ~~second~~ concave section of the distal end, the slit opens permitting fluid to pass therethrough and through said proximal end of said valve body.

10. (Original) The valve of claim 1, wherein the length of said slit corresponds to a desired opening pressure of the valve.

11. (Currently amended) An implantable, inflatable apparatus comprising:

an inflatable portion; and

a slit valve, wherein said slit valve includes secured to the inflatable portion, the slit valve including a unitary valve body having a proximal end and a distal end, a flange at the proximal end of the valve body and having a flange surface having an opening therein, a valve body having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end connected to said flange surface, a first chamber defined in said valve body and in open fluid communication with the flange opening, the first chamber being capable of formed in said valve body for accepting an inflation tube when inserted through said flange opening in said flange surface, a second chamber having a concave section, the second chamber located between said adjacent said first chamber and said distal end of the valve body, a normally closed slit formed in the valve body and connecting said the concave section and said the distal end of the valve body, wherein the valve body is structured to receive an inflation tube through the flange opening whereby fluid introduced from the inflation tube into the second chamber causes the slit to open and pass distally through the distal end of the valve body.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is a gastric balloon.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is a mammary implant.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is a tissue expander.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, upon insertion of an inflation tube, said flange ~~surface~~-opening accepts a tip portion of the inflation tube and secures the tip in said valve.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said tip portion has a reduced diameter part and, upon passage of the tip portion of the inflation tube through said flange ~~surface~~ opening, said opening engages ~~[[a]]~~ the reduced diameter part of the tip portion of the inflation tube thereby securing the tip portion ~~to secure the tip~~ in said valve.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein at least a portion of said first chamber substantially conforms to the shape of the tip portion of the inflation tube.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a neck portion located between the first chamber and the second chamber, wherein upon insertion, a tip portion of the inflation tube engages said neck portion.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said distal end further comprises a concave section.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein upon application of fluid pressure to the concave section of said distal end, said slit opens permitting backflow through said valve.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the length of said slit corresponds to a desired opening pressure of the valve.

24. (Currently amended) A medical The apparatus of claim 11, for the treatment of obesity, wherein the inflatable portion is in the form of an implantable for the treatment of obesity
~~comprising: an inflatable~~ balloon formed of a suitable polymer material for insertion into the stomach; ~~a slit valve for communication of a fluid from an inflation tube to said balloon, wherein said slit valve includes a flange surface having an opening therein, a valve body having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end connected to said flange surface, a first chamber formed in said valve body for accepting the inflation tube inserted through said opening in said flange surface, a concave section located adjacent said first chamber, and a slit formed in the valve body connecting said concave section and said distal end.~~

Claims 25-35 (Cancelled)